

WYCOMBE RIDE OUT SETBACKS

Sports Mail Special Report

RESULT: WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1, SUTTON 1

PLAGUED by injuries after being one down in the first minute, Wycombe Wanderers did well to hold to a draw their closest challengers for the Isthmian League leadership, Sutton.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Eyres, Royston; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Busby, Horseman, Merrick. Substitute: Sherbourne.

Sutton: Shewring; Gamblin, Taylor; Powell, Gradi, Blunt; Brookes, Bladon, Hutchins, Pritchard, Mellows. Substitute: Sheppard.

Referee: J Read (Morden).

The Wycombe defence was caught napping in the first attack of the game when a clever move by Blunt and Hutchins put inside right BLADON through to draw Maskell and shoot calmly into an empty goal to put Sutton ahead.

A minute later, with Wycombe hitting back at top speed Sutton were lucky to escape when goalkeeper Shewring dived full length to stop a crisp shot from left winger Merrick.

The Sutton defence was severely tested in a succession of Wycombe attacks which brought some more smart saves from Shewring and the Wanderers were well worth their equaliser in the 16th minute when HORSEMAN headed home in classic style from a copybook centre by Worley.

The football was of a high order in view of the heavy conditions and both sides produced some sparkling forward play, though short passing was too often clogged in the mud.

Half an hour after the start Wycombe lost their young

reserve right back Peter Eyres who was carried off the field with a recurrence of an old ankle injury and substitute Dick Sherbourne took his place.

But there was still very little in it, both sides attacking in turn with the wingers especially prominent.

Half-time: Wycombe W. 1, Sutton 1.

Wycombe had another setback at the start of the second half when left-winger Merrick was helped off the field with a leg injury. And a few minutes after he had resumed Worley was also taken off for touchline treatment for a leg injury after another clash.

With feeling running high the referee delivered a warning lecture to some of the players but it was still rough and tumble stuff at breakneck pace.

Royston was carried off by stretcher with a suspected fracture of the ankle after another heavy tackle.

With only ten men Wycombe came under heavy pressure and Maskell made a fine save from Bladon, and Brookes headed inches wide in another raid.

When Wycombe forced a corner in a furious climax Merrick was again injured and left limping badly.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAND.	1
SUTTON UNITED	1

Wycombe 1 Sutton 1

REDUCED TO 10 men, Wycombe had to struggle almost from the start after inside-right Bladon had given Sutton a first-minute lead. But Wycombe were well worth a 16th-minute equaliser by Horseman from Worley's centre. They were on top when right back Eyres went off with an ankle injury, Sherbourne coming on.

Wycombe then lost left back Roystone, also with an ankle injury.

In the closing stages Bladon, Pritchard and Mellows went close for Sutton.